THE STORY OF AMOGHA (#2)

from *Sri Chaitanya-Charitamrita, Madhya-lila* Chapter 15

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CAST: Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, Lord Chaitanya, Sati-Mata (Sarvabhauma's Wife), Gopinath Acharya, Amogha.

SCENE ONE

Lord Chaitanya's residence

Sarvabhauma: My dear Lord, since all the Vaishnavas have now returned to Bengal, I request that You kindly take lunch at my house every day for the next month.

Lord Chaitanya: This is not possible, for it is completely against the religious principles of a *sannyasi.*

Sarvabhauma: In that case, I request that You please come to my house for the next twenty days.

Lord Chaitanya: Bhattacharya, it is not a religious principle of the renounced order! I shall accept lunch at your house for one day only.

Sarvabhauma: O Lord, please be merciful to me. After many millions of lifetimes, I have achieved Your association. Do not treat me in such a way.

Lord Chaitanya: What can I say to you? What will become of My regulative principles? Because I cannot refuse you, I will accept lunch at your house for five days.

Sarvabhauma: Please come this very day at noon, so that we may provide food for You. **(they exit)**

SCENE TWO

The house of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya

(On stage, Sarvabhauma and wife are making preparations)

Sarvabhauma: Quickly now, is all prepared? It is almost noon and the Lord will be here very soon. Yes, you have done very well! I am sure the Lord will be very pleased to accept such nice preparations that have been offered to the Lord. I only hope that our son-in-law, Amogha, does not decide to come here. That rascal is very

envious of the Lord and is always looking for some chance to find fault. But if he shows his face here today, I will give him a sound beating that he will not forget for a long time! **(Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu enters)** My Lord, there is no limit to Your mercy, for You are willing to come to the house of this unfortunate non-devotee! **(he washes the Lord's feet)** Now, my Lord, please come and accept *prasadam.*

Lord Chaitanya: This is wonderful! How was this arrangement of rice and vegetables finished within six hours? Even a hundred men cooking could not possibly finish all these preparations within so short a time! I know that the food has already been offered to Lord Krishna, since I see that there are Tulasi flowers on the plates. You are most fortunate and your endeavor is successful, for you have offered such a wonderful variety of food to Radha and Krishna. Now take away Krishna's sitting place and give Me *prasada* on a different plate.

Sarvabhauma: It is not so wonderful, my Lord. Everything has been made possible by the mercy of He who will eat the food. Now please sit in this place and take lunch.

Lord Chaitanya: This place is worshipable because it was used by Krishna!

Sarvabhauma: Both the food and the sitting place are the Lord's mercy. If you can eat the remnants of the food, what is the offense in Your sitting in this place?

Lord Chaitanya: Yes, you have spoken correctly the *shastras* enjoin that the devotees can partake of everything left by Krishna, but there is so much food here that it is impossible to eat it all.

Sarvabhauma: I know how much You can eat. Here in Jagannath Puri You eat hundreds of buckets of *prasada* 52 times a day, and in Dwaraka You eat daily in 16,000 different places. At the Govardhana-puja ceremony You ate stacks of rice, in comparison to which this in not even a morsel for You. You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, whereas I am a most insignificant living being. Therefore You may accept a little quantity of food from my house. **(Lord Chaitanya sits down to eat. Bhattacharya is guarding the door but, while he is serving the Lord, Amogha cunningly enters)**

Amogha: This much food is sufficient to satisfy ten or twelve men, but this *sannyasi* alone is eating so much!

Sarvabhauma: Alas, the Lord has been blasphemed in my house. Now I will teach you a lesson! **(he takes a stick and chases Amogha**

around the room and out the door) This Amogha is lower than a street-dog! Alas, alas, that ever my daughter was given to such an abominable person! **(calls)** Help! Come and help me here! **(Sati-Mata runs in)**

Sati: My dear husband, what great calamity has occurred here in the Lord's presence?!

Sarvabhauma: Blasphemy! The Lord, while taking *prasada,* has been criticized by our most abominable son-in-law, Amogha!!!

Sati: What! How could such a calamity befall us? Now with all my heart I pray that my daughter, Shathi, will soon become a widow!

Lord Chaitanya: My dear Bhattacharya, do not lament so bitterly. Pacify yourself now that I have taken *prasada* at your house as you desired.

Sarvabhauma: I have invited You to my house only to have You blasphemed! This is a great offense. Please excuse me. I beg Your pardon. **(Bhattacharya brings Lord Chaitanya spices, sandalwood and a garland)**

Lord Chaitanya: What Amogha has said is correct, therefore it is not blasphemy. What is your offense? Now I must depart, but I request you to please don't take this incident seriously and reproach yourself.

Sarvabhauma: O Mahaprabhu, I surely have committed a great offense against You. I am the lowest of men and am certainly not fit to serve You!

Lord Chaitanya: There is no offense. Now please, I beg you, do not take this matter so seriously. **(he exits)**

Sarvabhauma: If the man who blasphemed Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is killed or if I give up my own life, this sinful action may be atoned. However, neither of these ideas are befitting because both bodies belong to *brahmanas.* Instead, I shall avoid the face of that blasphemer. I shall never even speak his name. Inform my daughter Shathi to abandon the relationship with her husband because he has fallen down. For when a husband is fallen, his relationship must be given up. This offense I have committed to the Lord grieves my heart so greatly.

SCENE THREE

Lord Chaitanya's residence

Lord Chaitanya: My dear Govinda, please tell Me what is happening at the house of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya. Both he and his wife were greatly afflicted at My being criticized yesterday by their son-in-law, Amogha.

Gopinath: My Lord, here is a great wonder. Both Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya and his wife are staying in their house and

fasting, while Amogha has fallen sick with cholera and is now dying!

Lord Chaitanya: This is all most disturbing! I must go immediately to Amogha's house!

SCENE FOUR

Amogha's house

(Amogha is in his bed. Lord Chaitanya places His hand on Amogha's chest)

Lord Chaitanya: The heart of a *brahmana* is by nature very clean, therefore it is a proper place for Krishna to sit. Why have you allowed jealousy to sit here also, making yourself like a *chandala*? However, because of your association with Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, all your contamination is vanquished and you are now able to chant the Holy Name of the Lord. Get up, Amogha, and chant the Hare Krishna *maha-mantra.* If you do so, Krishna will certainly bestow His mercy upon you. **(Amogha gets up and begins to chant and dance)**

Amogha: O merciful Lord, please excuse my offense. By this mouth I have blasphemed You. **(Amogha slaps his own mouth until Gopinath Acharya stops him)**

Lord Chaitanya: You are the object of My affection because you are the son-in-law of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya. Everyone in his house is very dear to Me, including his maids, his servants and even his dog. Amogha, always chant the Holy Name of the Lord and do not commit any further offenses.

Amogha: My Lord, I am the most abominable person, and surely I was destined to die of cholera due to my offenses at Your lotus feet. But not only have You saved me from death, out of Your causeless mercy, but You have delivered love of God to me! Certainly You are the most merciful of all incarnations, for You are freely giving the priceless gift of love of God even to the lowest of men.

Lord Chaitanya: Surely Krishna has saved you from the most abominable existence, due to His causeless mercy upon you. Now, Gopinath, go to the house of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya and tell him to give up all his lamentation. For this Amogha, who was formerly a most offensive person, is now chanting the Holy Name of the Lord and has become a most exalted devotee. EVERYONE CHANT THE HARE KRISHNA MANTRA!!! ***(kirtan)***

The End